

birthday of the great state of West Virginia. On this day, 140 years ago, West Virginia was born amidst the conflict of the Civil War.

In 1964, I came to West Virginia as a VISTA worker and spent 2 years in Emmons, WV. Those 2 years changed my life and I decided to make West Virginia my home and make public service my career. Over the years, I have been proud to serve the people of West Virginia in various ways and I feel very privileged to represent West Virginia in the Senate.

On West Virginia Day, I believe it is important to reflect upon our State's rich history, scenic beauty, and its hard-working, independent citizens who truly reflect our State motto, "Mountaineers are always free."

West Virginia's scenic trails and winding roads make it one of the most beautiful States in the country. Its mountainous terrain, breathtaking scenery, and raging rivers make it perfect for hiking, skiing, biking, rafting, fishing, and many other types of recreation. West Virginia truly earns the travel slogan of "wild and wonderful".

The small farms and growing industry of early West Virginia set it apart from the tobacco plantations of eastern Virginia. West Virginia was made up of large numbers of immigrants, along with rugged, hard-working frontiersmen and women who instilled the values and ideals that West Virginians embody today.

The people of West Virginia remain its greatest asset. West Virginians are industrious, ambitious, open, and fun-loving people. They value equality and liberty which tie them to both our State and country. West Virginians have been some of the most innovative and creative people, contributing to all aspects of American society and culture.

After his family left Virginia and slavery for a better life west of the mountains, Booker T. Washington was raised in Malden, Kanawha County, WV, and began working in the salt furnaces at the age of seven. He rose up from slavery and illiteracy to become the foremost educator and leader of Black Americans at the turn of the 20th century. He founded the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, later known as Tuskegee University.

Jerry West was born in Cabin Creek, WV and attended West Virginia University, where he was a two time All-American basketball player. After he won a gold medal for the U.S. Olympic team in Rome in 1960, he moved west to play for the Los Angeles Lakers. He excelled throughout his playing career, gaining a reputation as a perfectionist. He helped the Lakers win a championship in 1972 and was elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1979.

Col. Ruby Bradley, a native of Spencer, WV, was the most highly decorated woman ever to serve in the U.S. military. Her military record included 34 medals and citations of bravery, including two Legion of Merit medals,

two Bronze stars, two Presidential Emblems, the World War II victory medal, and the U.N. Service Medal. She was also the recipient of the Florence Nightingale Medal, the highest distinction given by the International Red Cross. She was a U.S. Army nurse and a POW for 2 years in the Philippines and was known as the "Angel in Fatigues" at Santo Tomas Internment Camp in Manila. On July 2, 2002, she was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery.

These three West Virginians are but a few representative examples of the kind of talented, successful, courageous, and independent people in our great State. Their lives and stories provide a glimpse into the spirit of our State, and they also serve as an inspiration to the young people in our State today.

The natural beauty, the people of West Virginia, and their countless achievements should be celebrated and remembered every day. As we strive to promote our economic growth, I hope we will also be mindful of our responsibilities to preserve what makes our state so special, the values and character of its people.

I hope all Americans have the opportunity to experience some of West Virginia's beautiful vistas and to meet the wonderful people I have come to know and love throughout my service to West Virginia.

I am proud to represent my home State of West Virginia and am honored to be able to recognize the 140th anniversary of the Mountain State.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMENDING THE SERVICE OF DANIEL P. BURNHAM

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, today I would like to take a moment to recognize the dedication and professionalism of Daniel P. Burnham, chairman and chief executive officer of Raytheon Co. in Lexington, MA. On July 1, 2003, Dan will step down from his position after 5 years at the helm at the company.

Dan worked tirelessly to make Raytheon the hallmark company it is today. He came to the company from Allied Signal, bringing his long history in the defense industry. He introduced a management tool known as Six Sigma to improve Raytheon's efficiency. Six Sigma is a testament to Dan's ingenuity, allowing the company to decrease waste, and at the same time, increase productivity. Dan's unwavering commitment to excellence is clearly demonstrated in his ability to streamline the company while preserving its quality.

Dan improved customer relations while presiding over a transformation and realignment of Raytheon. Under Dan's leadership, the company made valuable acquisitions that increased its capabilities. He concentrated on cus-

tom-focused initiatives and disciplines to ensure that Raytheon provided our men and women in uniform some of the most important defense systems ever developed—many of which were demonstrated recently in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

One example of this is the PATRIOT Missile, manufactured by the Raytheon Co. The PATRIOT Missile protected our troops and allies in the Middle East from the threat of Iraqi missiles that our military believed had the potential to carry deadly chemical or biological weapons. The PATRIOT Missile is a valuable tool in our arsenal to assure swift victory in Iraq and save countless lives.

Under Dan's leadership, Raytheon won a U.S. Navy contract to develop and produce the next generation of naval vessels. The DD(X) destroyer, with its cutting edge technology will ensure that the United States maintains its tactical and technological superiority on the high seas.

Admiral Vern Clark, the Chief of Naval Operations, described the DD(X) destroyer as "the future of the surface force in the United States Navy." The DD(X) will truly be the ship of the 21st century. The Raytheon Co., in no small part, is responsible for providing the United States Navy with this unparalleled vessel.

The Tomahawk Cruise Missile, produced by Raytheon and first used in Operation Desert Storm in 1991 has become the premier weapon in the U.S. military's conventional arsenal. Launched from the air, or from the sea, Tomahawk has evolved with the Navy's needs and proved invaluable in Operation Desert Fox, 1998, and was once again the weapon of choice for "shock and awe" in Operation Iraqi Freedom this year. Under Dan Burnham, Raytheon has provided the U.S. Navy with an unequaled precision strike capability offering long-range strike capability against heavily defended targets.

Although Dan will continue to hold the position of nonexecutive chairman for some time, his leadership at the helm of a company he made strong will be dearly missed. I believe the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and especially, brave men and women of our Armed Services have benefited from Dan Burnham's keen sense of right and relentless pursuit of excellence.

We wish him, his wife, Meg, and his family every success in this new and exciting chapter of his life. We bid him "Fair winds and following seas." •

SALUTE TO CHARLESTON'S PHILIP SIMMONS ON HIS 91ST BIRTHDAY

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, my hometown of Charleston, SC, maintains a special relationship with history. Rather than keeping history in books and museums for occasional viewing, the Charleston community